



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663
HALIFAX NS
B3J 2T3

May 2004 Volume 65 Number 5
club web site is www.halifax-arc.org

DownEast Flea Market is May 15



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421
See the HARC Web site at: <http://www.halifax-arc.org>

Our executive and committees.

Position Name & Call Sign	Phone #	E-Mail
President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
First V.P. - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO	865-4198	ve1wo@rac.ca
2nd V.P. - Rick Gardiner, VE1RGG		ve1rgg@rac.ca
Secretary - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Treasurer - John Goodwin, VE1CDD	865-5731	ve1cdd@rac.ca
Member at Large, Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Club Station Mgr. - Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PHK		ve1phk@rac.ca
Past President - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	434-8046	ve1ai@rac.ca

Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Public Relations: Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH	832-3660	ve1wph@rac.ca
IPARN and Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau Manager -		
Bob Burns, VE1VCK	865-9414	ve1vck@rac.ca
EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP	466-8723	dgeorge@is.dal.ca
Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT		
Reflector Dist. - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Membership - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC		
Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS,	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
Basic ham course - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Callbook 04 Editor Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
EMO Trailer Assembly coord - David Musgrave, VE1EDA	435-4333	ve1eda@rac.ca
Flea market 2004 Chair'man - Ed Grace, VE1EGG		
Field Day coordinator - NEEDED		
RAC Asst Director - Wayne Marchand, VE1WJM,	860-1580	ve1wjm@rac.ca
NSARA Director - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI	861-3719	ve1tri@rac.ca
Frequency coordinator for Nova Scotia - Bev Reynolds, VE1TL		

GENERAL INFORMATION

TAKE-15 NET:
Sunday evenings at 8:30 PM on
VE1PSR - 147.270 MHz +

CLUB REPEATERS:
VE1PSR - 147.270 MHz +
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz -

PACKET:
VE1NSD - 145.050 MHz LAN NODE
VE1BBS - Local packet BBS
accessible through the LAN

A new website -
www.aidrac.ca has been set
up outside of RAC to serve as a
vehicle to express opinions and
share solutions with respect to
the problems facing RAC.

Maritime Callbook 2004
Is on schedule. Barring the un-
foreseen, the Maritime Callbook
2004 will be available for sale
May 15 at the
DownEast Flea Market.

The General Meeting of the
Halifax Amateur Radio Club
will take place May 19, Wednes-
day, at 1930 hours (7:30 PM), at
the former Bloomfield School
building (corner of Almon and
Agricola streets). The meeting
will be held in the Multi-Purpose
Room. Our speaker will be Jim
Fisher, VE1JF.
Guests are welcome.

NOTICE

The Reflector is now available in
PDF format. Those wishing to save
the club printing and postage can
request to receive it by E-mail and
print it off on their own printer.
Send request to Lynn Bowser at:
ve1ent@rac.ca

**Deadline for submissions to
the June Reflector is
Saturday, June 5, 2004**

Take-15 Net Controllers

NOTE: There have been some
changes.

This will be the rotation.
If you cannot take the net
on your particular evening
get in touch with one of the others
and trade places with them. If I
have left any one off the list, or
you want to join, please let Bill
Elliott, VE1MR, know.

May 9	Dave	VE1EDA
May 16	Charles	VE1MCR
May 23	Chris	VA1CDB
May 30	Pierre	VE1PTR
June 6	Herb	VE1HX
June 13	Tom	VE1GTC
June 20	Doug	VE1LDL
June 27	Larry	VA1LW



DownEast Flea Market

When: Saturday May 15, 2004 at 10:00 AM talk-in on 147.27 +



Where: the HALIFAX FORUM ANNEX (same as last year) Map and directions will be on the HARC web site soon

Admission \$3 for everybody
OPEN at 6:00 AM for sellers, 10:00 AM for buyers.



....suggest buyers do breakfast at Steak & Stein which is a 3 minute walk from the Forum



There will be demonstrations & displays...

- * RAC will have a table
- * NSARA will have their meeting
- * VE1WZ will represent DARC as our official flea market photo taker.
- * The QSL bureau will be there
- Questions? Table reservations....

Contact David S Nimmo, VE1NN
ve1nn@rac.ca

Friday Nite Social: May 14

Where: The Jolly Mug (South Entrance to Bayer's Lake park)

Time: 1900 hrs (7:00 pm)

What: Regular menu (pub style food) and drinks available.

They would like to get a number of people that would be there so they can have extra staff if necessary.

Please email Ed, VE1EGG if you know that you will be there.

The club is going to have a **packet revival** meeting on a Saturday morning during May or early June. If you are interested in learning how to operate packet radio or would like to refresh your memory please stay tuned for further announcements about the date. In the meantime, have a look at the packet information on the web site provided by the Lincoln (Nebraska) Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.larc.unl.edu/packet/>
Rick VE1RGG
Second Vice President

HARC Digital Communication Special Interest Group

Interested in Digital Communication? The structure of the group's activities and endeavours is very loose and aims to address topics like interfacing computers and amateur gear as well as communicating via digital modes on VHF, HF and UHF. We will attempt to experiment with as many digital modes, software and hardware as possible.

6 to 8 hams have already expressed an interest. The more people involved, the fun and the learning increase proportionally.

Come and join us Everyone is welcome! No previous experience required!

If you're interested, please contact me at ve1cdd@rac.ca or by phone (865-5731).

The next get-together will be May 24 at 7:30 in the club station
73 John VE1CDD

The APRS group – The next meeting will be June 9 at 7:30 in the club station. – Dave, VE1EDA

The early bird gets the worm but the second mouse gets the cheese

The Summerside Amateur Radio Club will be holding the **PEI Flea-market** this year on **July 10** beginning at 10AM.

Location: the Charlottetown Flying Club Building adjacent to the Charlottetown Airport on Route 15. Cost - \$3.00 at the door and \$5.00 for a sellers table.

For tables or further info contact Bill, VY2FF at vy2ff@summersidearc.com or Rodney, VY2CGA at vy2cga@rac.ca



There is a restaurant on site so breakfast, coffee & lunch will be available.

The Summerside ARC Website is <http://www.summersidearc.com>
73 - Ken VY2RU Summerside ARC

Events for Your '04 Calendar

May 15 – Downeast Flea Market

June 26 – 27 - Field Day

July – Museum Ships Special Event

July - IOTA - *Scott, Howard & Dick plan to operate from Tancock Island*

July & August – Pizza Nights

August 7 - DX forum at (VE1QD) Scott's home. An AM DX session & a PM session; also a Bar-B-Q

August – NSARA Picnic

August – Lunenburg Steak & Salmon Supper

August 14 &15 – MS Bike Tour
Contact Rick Gardner, VE1RGG, to get involved.

August – International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend 2004 –

0001 UTC Saturday, Aug. 21 until 2359 UTC on Sunday, August 22

(Scott, Howard & Dick plan to put Peggy's Cove light on the air and demonstrate Amateur radio to Peggy's Cove visitors.)

Fall – EMO workshop

October – VHF/UHF Contest

October – JOTA

December - Christmas party

The 6th annual Search & Rescue Competition will take place Sept. 9 to 11, **2005**. Club co-ordinators for a special event station are Dick, VE1AI, and Scott, VE1QD.

David, VE1EDA will hold an **EMO NET** each Sunday evening at 1930 local (7:30 PM).

The goal of the net will be to keep all Amateur's informed on any news about EMO and to increase the interest in emergencies preparedness.

The satellite interest group – The next meeting will be May 26 at 1930 hours (7:30PM) in the club station. Come out and see what is happening. If you're interested, please contact John, VE1CDD, at ve1cdd@rac.ca or by phone (865-5731).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE May 2004

Hello again, another month has rolled by and Spring is finally here. The next few months are quite active for the club. By the time you read this the Down East Flea Market will be on us or just past. The new call book will be released at the flea market and a very professional job has been done on it. Congratulations to Howard, VE1DHD and his call book crew for a monumental job very well done. Pre orders for the call book amount to nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ the print run and it is expected to sell well at the flea market so the majority of books should be sold by the end of the flea market. I hope to see all of you at the flea market this year.

June brings the ARRL Field Day and the executive will be co-ordinating this event but we still need people to help with different aspects of the organisation required. There is a list of tasks on this page and while they are not all of the required tasks they are the most pressing. If you can co-ordinate a single task or help out please let an executive member know. The more people helping the less each person needs to do. Some tasks only require one person while others require a group. Field Day is always a fun outing with a very special social aspect as well as learning new techniques of operating, installing equipment, new modes and teamwork. It allows you to see how equipment and antennas work, the interconnection of equipment and computer logging. I learn new things each year during setup, operating and watching others operate. Come join the fun, help organise, help set up, do some operating and help take down.

Next month I will cover the summer events since there are no formal meetings in July and August and no newsletter for those two months. There will be a lot of club and individual activity during the summer so check next month to fill your calendar with fun Amateur Radio stuff.

73 - Bill Elliott, VE1MR

FIELD DAY TASKS

- * Loading and transportation of gear to site.
- * Checking gear beforehand - Towers, antennas, feedlines, stakes, bits and pieces, tents
- * Organize radio and associated gear - radios and accessories (clocks, lamps, power bars, etc.)
- * Logging - software, computers, training, testing
- * Scrap paper and pencils for operating positions
- * Site acquisition/permission
- * Arrange borrowed equipment - GSAR vehicle (s), generators, EMO trailer
- * Food and food preparation - purchase food, arrange menus, cooking paraphernalia
- * Operators and loggers - CW, SSB, GOTA, other
- * Setup crew
- * Take down crew
- * Bonus points coordinator
- * Safety person
- * SSB station setup - where, what gear
- * CW station setup - where, what gear
- * VHF/UHF station setup - where, what gear
- * Satellite station setup - where, what gear
- * GOTA station setup - where, what gear
- * Transportation of gear from site and unloading.



While these are some of the most important tasks they are not all of them, we have volunteers for a few of the other tasks not listed. We need people to co-ordinate and help the co-ordinators with these tasks, if you can help please contact an executive member of a co-ordinator once we have identified them.

The club has ordered the **Anderson Powerpole connectors** and they are available now. The price to members will be \$1.25 each (this is a red and black connector for one complete end). To make a complete mating pair will require 2 connectors. To preorder your supply please contact Tom Caithness, VE1GTC by E-mail at:

tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca

If we have extra then we may offer them to non members at a slightly higher price.



Puzzler - Do You Know?

When we talk about early trans-Atlantic radio experiments we think of Signal Hill, Newfoundland. What other Canadian location was used for these experiments?

Answer on page 10

The **Club station** is a good space for ham radio activities but **please reserve your date & time** with Station Manager Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PHK E-mail ve1phk@rac.ca This is to prevent the disappointment of arriving at the Club Station and finding someone else has booked it for the same time you wanted to use it. **So booking with Pat is a must!!**

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 17, April 23, 2004

There now are five ham radio operators aboard the International Space Station (ISS). Expedition 9 ISS crew members Gennady Padalka, RN3DT, and Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, accompanied by European Space Agency astronaut André Kuipers, PI9ISS, arrived at the ISS right on schedule April 21 aboard a Russian Soyuz vehicle. They joined Expedition 8 crew members Mike Foale, KB5UAC, and Sasha Kaleri, U8MIR, whom Padalka and Fincke will relieve.

Letter to the Editor of The Reflector

I wish to comment upon John, VE1CDD's article on "Alternate Web Browsers" in the March 2004 issue.

I have used my registered copy of "Opera" as my default browser for more than two years now and I would not give it up. Not only is it more convenient to use but pages load much faster than when using Netscape or IE. This is important to me as I am some distance from Parrsboro and have only about half the connection speed as in town!

A neat feature of Opera is that I never have to type in login information such as user names and passwords, much less remember them. Once set up, a button called "Wand" is clicked and your information automatically fills the form and you enter the site - one click does it all. This speeds up things considerably. I use Opera's built-in email handling utility also.

By the way, I use a free utility called "Password Agent Lite" (<http://www.moonsoftware.com>) which logs User Name and password information for bank, credit cards and so on. One uses a master password to open the utility. I don't allow Opera to store sensitive information generally.

Another freebie is the 602Pro PC Suite. I use 602Text, the word processor frequently and I am using this now to type this letter. It is a MS Word Clone. Use Google to find their website. FREE is GOOD!

Thanks, John, for the article. I always enjoy reading the HARC Reflector and keeping up to date with club activities. Lynn, keep up the good work with the Reflector and have a great Field Day!

See you at the Fleamarket!

VE1CHI, Jim C.
Associate HARC Member.

"Do not meddle in the affairs of cats, for they are subtle and will pee on your computer." -- Bruce Graham

Device tracks bank-robbery suspects

- from an article by Jane Prendergast - The Cincinnati Enquirer

A satellite tracking device dropped into a bag of money during a bank robbery led police to their suspects although it took a car chase, a crash and an exchange of gunfire before the suspects were arrested.



The first local use of a global positioning system (GPS) locator resulted in the arrest of three men. Because of the GPS locator, officers knew almost immediately where the suspects' car was travelling. The device, about the size of a pack of cigarettes, sends a signal to a satellite, which transfers the information to a computer that local dispatchers can access with a password.

Local dispatch centers have had the technology more than a year. This was the first time a robber went to the window of a teller with a locator in the drawer, said the commander of Cincinnati's Major Offenders Unit. Police declined to say how many banks have the devices.

The unit's commander said he was notified by cell phone within seconds of the device going into the bag. Dispatchers continued to tell officers where the suspects' Acura was travelling. Officers caught up to it within minutes, and all three suspects were under arrest before 11 a.m.

The chase ended when the car hit a tree and the suspects bailed out. That's when one of them turned and fired at Officer Ken Klayer, the department's DARE officer who returned fire. No one was hurt.

Police departments elsewhere have used GPS locators in other kinds of cases. In Seattle, investigators attached one to a homicide suspect's vehicle in 2000 and followed him to the shallow grave he'd dug for his victim.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 17 April 23, 2004

FCC OKAYS RFID TAGS AT 433.5 TO 434.5 MHZ

The FCC will permit deployment of RF Identification (RFID) tags in a segment of the 70-cm band at much greater duty cycles than current Part 15 rules permit for such devices and at higher field strengths. Among other applications, RFID tags are used to track shipments & packing containers. The ARRL has consistently opposed the proposal.

FCC Office of Engineering and Technology Chief Ed Thomas said the RFID item is designed to increase homeland security at ports, rail yards, warehouses," and "will foster the development of RFID systems that can identify the contents of shipping containers and determine whether tampering has occurred during shipment" and increase efficiency in shipping operations & inventory control.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said the issue of homeland security helps the Commission justify the abandonment of its periodic radiator rules and of its custodial role of a natural resource.

The decision increases the maximum radiated field strength permitted for such devices and extends their maximum permissible transmission period from one second to one minute. However the operating band for such RFID tags will be limited to 433.5 to 434.5 MHz, instead of the 425 to 435 MHz SAVI originally wanted. Also operation of RFID tag systems within 40 km of five government radar sites will be prohibited. Manufacturers of 433 MHz RFID systems would have to register the locations of their system base stations to assist in resolving interference complaints.

Since SAVI first approached the FCC in 2000, ARRL has maintained that the RFID tags the company proposed represents a significant source of potential interference to sensitive receivers. Operating near-continuous duty in the vicinity of 433 MHz "is fundamentally incompatible with incumbent amateur operation," the ARRL told the FCC.

DX n' HF

Welcome to a new column in the Reflector! We are planning to address a number of topics over the coming months that are under the general category of DXing and other HF pursuits. We will not even try to duplicate the already excellent DX bulletins that contain information about global DX activities, but we will in time give you a run down on some of the best and least expensive sources. Our purpose in this column is to share stories, information and creative ideas about the exciting HF aspect of our hobby. We will try to touch on topics of immediate relevance and interest to our membership.

Events. You might think of this as the start of another interest group within HARC. Not only are we kicking off this column, but we also wish to remind you of a number of mainly HF related activities already planned or in the process being put together. They will provide you a valuable opportunity to continue to develop the HF side of our hobby. Below are a list of activities coming up in June, July and August that you should put on your calendar.

25-27 June Field Day is one of the premier events in the ham radio calendar. It is an excellent opportunity to hone skills in setting up a station and operating under emergency conditions. You will see more details about Field Day in this and the June issue of the Reflector.

23 – 25 July Islands on the Air (IOTA) Contest is sponsored by the Radio Society of Great Britain and is an annual event that is becoming more and more popular. This year Dick, VE1AI, Howard, VE1DHD and Scott, VE1QD are planning to operate from Big Tancook Island. We are working out the logistics for the event and there will be room for other HARC members to participate on one or more of the days.

7 August The first DX Forum will be held at Scott's (VE1QD) home on

Moser Island in Glen Margaret. There will be a one-day program that includes a morning presentation on an interesting topic related to DX, followed by a BBQ at noon and a second presentation about DXing in the afternoon. This will be a relaxed and highly social gathering, hopefully under sunny skies. It will last from 1000 – 1600 hrs. More details will be in the June Reflector.

20-22 Aug. During International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend the Club will operate from the Old Red School House at Peggy's Cove, just a short distance from the lighthouse. It will present another opportunity for many club members to operate on the HF bands, not in a contest, but rather as part of a relaxed worldwide event. It should be a lot of fun. Moreover, because there are so many visitors at Peggy's Cove at this time of the year it will be helpful to have a number of Club members to talk with them and explain both the event and ham radio. We will do the set-up on Friday and operate on Saturday & Sunday from 0001 to 2359 UTC. It will be an especially good event for operators to gain some experience in working on the HF bands. (A ham with a basic license may operate a station on the HF bands under the supervision of a ham with full privileges.)

You can get further information about these events from Dick, Howard or Scott. More details will appear in the June Reflector.

New Ways to QSL

While many Hams still like the looks and feel of a rare and uniquely designed QSL card, the cost of QSLing, particularly when it comes to responding to literally thousands of requests following a DXpedition, is rapidly becoming just too expensive for most. However, there is now an alternative to the traditional QSL card and that is electronic QSLing.

One of the factors that has inhibited the growth and acceptance of electronic QSLing to this point has been

the reluctance of ARRL to accept this form of confirmation of a contact for award purposes; the fear being that electronic systems could be abused. However, significant pressure from the community has encouraged ARRL to develop its own electronic log checking system - "Logbook of the World" - and that system was just introduced late last year. The system is new and in order to be truly useful, it needs to be encouraged to grow. Logs that are submitted to Logbook of the World are checked against all other logs in the system to confirm contacts for awards. (See the 2004 edition of the Maritime Provinces Callbook for more detail.) However, until the system is more heavily subscribed, there will still be pressure to request traditional QSL cards.

For those who feel the need to have that traditional card, there is an alternative. It too involves electronic QSLing. The website, www.eQSL.cc, is now several years old and until the ARRL Logbook of the World was introduced, represented the first and only generally accepted way of electronically sending and receiving confirmation of a contact. This site also provides the capability of placing a personalised full-colour QSL card on the system so that anyone who really wishes to have the card can down-load and print one off.

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club has been at the forefront of innovation in amateur radio in many areas over the years and so has been viewed as one of the more progressive clubs in the country. There is good reason then for HARC to take a leadership role in the area of electronic QSLing and to proactively support what clearly is going to be the future for QSL exchange.

We believe that HARC-sponsored events should actively promote electronic QSLing. HARC should develop a fancy full-colour QSL card background that would be posted on the eQSL.cc website. Electronic logs from the Club Station and any of the

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**Halifax Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the General Monthly
Meeting of April 21, 2004**

The meeting was called to order at 1940 hrs Wednesday, April 21, 2004 by President Bill Elliott, VE1MR,

Executive in attendance:

President Bill Elliott (VE1MR); Second vice-president Rick Gardiner; VE1RGG;

Treasurer John Goodwin, VE1CDD; Station Manager Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PHK

and Past-President Dick, VE1AI.

Silent Keys: No silent keys were reported

Guests: Guests present were Stephanie (Mrs. VE1PHK), Helen, VA1YL, her aunt Connie and sister Lois, Fred, VE1FA, Phil, VE1PB, Matt, VE1BSG, John, VE1WS, Harold, VE1HAO.

Minutes, March meeting – Approval of the minutes of HARC's March general meeting as published in the HARC Reflector was moved by Karen, VE1KHP, and seconded by Jim, VE1JIM. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer John Goodwin, VE1CDD, gave the Treasurer's report and stated that HARC's bank balance is \$7,363.88 with an additional \$600 to be deposited. Income since last month has been mostly from Callbook advertising. Approval of the Treasurer's report was moved by Win, VE1WIN, and seconded by Bob, VE1PQ. Motion carried.

Executive Reports:

1) **President's Report:** President Bill, VE1MR, reported that the HARC executive and Craig, VE1JMA, will coordinate Field Day 2004. Volunteers to coordinate or work on aspects of Field Day 2004 are welcome. Possible locations are the previous Field Day site at exit 5, York Redoubt and Spryfield

2) **1st Vice President Report:** Fraser, nothing in Fraser's absence.

3) **2nd Vice President's Report:** Rick, VE1RGG reported that:

- this evening's door prize is a tool kit.

- Our guest speakers are Fred (VE1FA) and Helen (VA1YL) Archibald speaking about Island DXpeditioning

- a packet radio revival meeting is planned. All welcome. Date is still to be determined.

4) Station Manager Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PHK, had nothing to report..

5) In the absence of Howard, VE1DHD, there was no Secretary's report.

Committee Reports:

1) Membership, in the absence of Tom, VE1GTC, there was no formal membership report however it was noted that membership as of this meeting is 115.

2) Search and Rescue - Dave, VE1AJP, reported that things have been quiet with no search and rescue events occurred over the previous month; however, during/after "White Juan" they were called upon and with their equipment were able to transport 65 nurses, medical technicians & doctors to and from the IWK hospital. There are now 206 S&R members.

3) EMO - Dave, VE1AJP, reported there was no EMO activity.

4) Flea Market - a few more volunteers would be welcome..

5) Maritime Callbook: 2004 - Bill, VE1MR stated that the Callbook which is currently at the printers will be available at the FleaMarket. 1200 are being printed. Book prices are: 1 for \$12; 2 for \$22; 3 for \$30; 25 and up get price breaks.

Old Business: - None

New Business / Announcements / Items of General Interest:

Business from the floor:

Scott, VE1QD, reported that he, Howard, VE1DHD and Dick, VE1AI plan to co-author a regular HF column for the Reflector

Up-coming HF events/activities are:

- June 26 &27 - Field Day
- July - IOTA - Scott, Howard & Dick plan to operate from Tancook

Island

- August 7 - a DX forum at Scott's home - a DX session in the morning and a session in the afternoon as well as a Bar-B-Q

- August 21 & 22 - Lighthouse/Lightship event - Scott, Howard & Dick plan to put Peggy's Cove light on the air. This will be an opportunity to demonstrate Amateur radio to Peggy's Cove visitors.

MS Walk (May 2) & Bike Tour (Aug. 14 &15) - Rick, VE1RGG, reminded us of these events. Tom, VE1GTC is taking names for MS Walk communications volunteers. Start time 8:30AM

Special Interest Groups & Contacts - anyone interested should contact as follows:

Digital - John, VE1CDD

Satellite - John, VE1CDD

APRS -David, VE1EDA

(Meetings of these groups are held at the Club station)

David, VE1AJP, advised that Price Club/Costco are carrying 15W portable Solar Panel kits at \$499

RAC - Correspondence with RAC Directors by President Bill on behalf of HARC was published in the March Reflector. No criticism of Bill's letters was raised by our membership

Bill advised that Dave Goodwin, VO1AU, who has been appointed unilaterally by the remaining RAC Directors to the position of RAC Atlantic Director for the duration of the current term may attend the Downeast Fleamarket in his official capacity. Bill Gillis, VE1WG plans to attend.

Type of cable makes a big difference!! Bill, VE1MR, showed 2 cables on which he had done a loss comparison at 148MHz.. Both had the same loss at 148MHz although the one equivalent to RG174 was only 8" long and the RG9913 type cable was 35 feet long.

Win, VE1WIN, brought in a sample of the "hutches" he has been building

(Continued on page 7)

Minutes (Continued from page 6)

and will be selling at the FleaMarket (\$40 each)

Door Prize: The door prize, a small-tool kit, was won by Karen, VE1KHP

The 50:50 Draw was won by John, VE1DD. (\$16.50):

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Bob, VE1PQ.

Entertainment for tonight: After refreshments and socializing our guest speakers Fred (VE1FA) and Helen (VA1YL) Archibald spoke and showed slides about IOTA and Island DXpeditioning in which they have been involved, touching on such things as permission to use a chosen island, equipment, learning to maximize scores, logging software, QSLing.

Respectfully submitted by
Lynn, VE1ENT, acting Secretary

Just as we expected, the CBC is woefully lacking in public spirit about their towers, not just in Nova Scotia but elsewhere too. Thanks to Chris, VA1CDB, for sending this along -ed

The Manitoba Repeater Society appeals for help.

It seems like after 30 years of a very successful working relationship, the CBC has decided that they would like to charge \$2400.00 per year to allow the VE4MAN repeater to reside on their Starbuck tower. The executive of the Manitoba Repeater Society (MRS) has tried to explain that they just can not afford such a cost, and would like to be exempt from their corporate financial policy. Their request has been rejected.

MRS are urging everyone who uses the VHF & UHF repeaters &/or linking system to write a letter to their Member of parliament, listing the fact that Amateur radio provides a public good and aid in times of emergency, and urging them to support an exemption to the CBC's new policy on charging for access to their tower space.

<http://ve4.net/mrs/manhelp.html>

NSARA CONTEST RESULTS

The following is the official result for the 6th annual NSARA CONTEST, held March 14, 2004



The NSARA Contest Committee congratulates Bev Reynolds, VE1TL on his win in the 2004 Contest. Bev operated both phone and CW from Walton NS. In second place by the closest of margins was Merle Taylor, VE1VCI.

RESULTS OF THE 6th ANNUAL NSARA CONTEST

CS indicates "Clean Sweep"

1. VE1TL - 2178 Pts. *CS* Bev	13. VE1BYO - 1368 Pts. *CS* Tom
2. VE1VCI - 2106 Pts. *CS* Merle	14(T) VE1LV - 1332 Pts. *CS* Hal
3. VE1LEO - 2074 Pts. Leo	14(T) VE1GLW - 1332 Pts. *CS* Jerry
4. VE1DFG - 1728 Pts. *CS* Doug	16. VE1BA - 1320 Pts. John
5. VE1OP - 1700 Pts. Scott	17. VE1KY - 1314 Pts. *CS* Basil
6(T) VE1CZ - 1620 Pts. *CS* Bob	18. VE1AUZ - 1296 Pts. *CS* Martin
6(T) VE1BEW - 1620 Pts. *CS* Linda	19. VE1CSM - 1120 Pts. Colin
8. VE1AMP - 1590 Pts. Herb	20. VE1TRI - 1116 Pts. *CS* Barry
9. VE1AAC - 1584 Pts. *CS* Gerry	21. VE1NN - 1104 Pts. Dave
10. VE1LS - 1566 Pts. *CS* Leo	22. VE1NAN - 1080 Pts. *CS* Judy
11. VE1NA - 1530 Pts. *CS* Alex	23. VE1GM - 1008 Pts. Dave
12. VE1AUI - 1440 Pts. *CS* Roy	

The following stations with scores of less than 1000 Points, are listed in alphabetical order.

VE1ACK - Al	VE1JBL - Jim	VE9CX - Hinson
VE1AFH - Jim	VE1JBV *CS* John	VE9HC - Hugh
VE1AN - Art	VE1NL - Mack	VE9NIX - Ron
VE1AUL - Grace	VE1QY - Barry	VE9PLB *CS* Peter
VE1BBW - Dave	VE1RR *CS* Wayne	VE9SAB - Wayne
VE1DHD - Howard	VE1WO *CS* Fraser	VE9TNT - Doug
VE1GWW *CS* Glenn	VE1WSM - Wayne	VE9VAR - Robert
VE1GYS - Antigonish ARC		VE1XP - George

There were 46 logs submitted this year and many more stations participated by getting on the air and giving out their counties. Band conditions were up and down, which hurt some stations who were on the air for only a short time. Bev, VE1TL and Merle, VE1VCI battled for first place in one of the closest finishes in all six years of the contest.

Thanks again to the "Lone Rangers" in several counties who get on the air to allow others to work all counties.

Thanks to all who took part in the 2004 NSARA Contest.

The NSARA Contest Committee April 26, 2004

September 7-12., 2004 - the 12th ARDF World Championships will be held in the Czech Republic

Tech Support: A confused caller to IBM was having trouble printing documents. He told the technician that the computer had said it "couldn't find printer." The user had also tried turning the computer screen to face the printer-but that his computer still couldn't "see the printer."

DX n' HF (Continued from page 5)
special events that the Club participates in would be uploaded to eQSL.cc as well as to the ARRL - Logbook of the World site, and it would be made clear that electronic QSLing through these two vehicles will be the only way to confirm contacts with our stations. Outrageous, I hope not, but we would love to get your feedback.

Dick Grantham, VE1AI;
Howard Dickson, VE1DHD;
& Scott Wood, VE1QD

The following story did not, unfortunately, appear in our newspaper (they had their chance and didn't seize it). The HARC Reflector's editor did not have to be asked twice. Ed

Amateur Radio in Emergencies
by Linda Whitehouse, VE1WWW

It really was a dark and stormy night — but, not nearly as dark and stormy as it was about to become.



David George and his wife Sherry, who is eight months pregnant with their first child, arrive at the Emergency Measures building in Woodside. Hurricane Juan is raging offshore — it's 8 p.m., Sunday evening, September 28, 2003.

Bill Galloway, the Amateur Radio Communications Coordinator, has been at his post since noon. David & Sherry, amateur radio operators, have come to help.

High on a hill in south Dartmouth, the Eric Spicer Municipal Building houses Canada's first joint emergency operations centre, opened in September 2001. Municipal, provincial and federal representatives maintain offices here. The view is spectacular. You can see much of Dartmouth and Halifax, all the way out to McNab's Island at the mouth of Halifax Harbour.

The Emergency Operations Centre is the nucleus of the building. Completely enclosed and self-contained, it consists of a large common room with comfortable couches and television monitors, a fully functioning kitchen, meeting rooms and the large municipal operations room. This is where most of the action takes place during emergencies.

Senior duty officers — city police, transit, public works, Red Cross, fire, RCMP and ambulance — occupy stations along one wall. The Coordinator of the Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) and the secretary sit just outside the communications room — Bill Galloway's domain.

A radio amateur since 1989, Gal-

loway is a retired systems control officer and self-professed computer geek. Tall and slim, with a quiet voice, he has an aura of competence and professionalism.

Radio amateurs, better known as hams, have been around since the early 1900's. The name amateur does not refer to the skill or knowledge of the operators, but rather implies, as regulations dictate, that ham radio cannot be used for commercial or revenue generating purposes.

A group of dedicated volunteer hams in the Halifax Regional Municipality form an integral part of the EMO.

At 9:25 p.m., Mayor Peter Kelly declares a state of emergency for the Halifax Regional Municipality. Hurricane Juan is barreling straight towards Metro.

All five stations in the EMO communications room are manned. On call are 20 additional ham operators, including two technicians.

Sherry George feels this is a good place to be in case those stories she has heard are true about low-pressure systems putting some women into labour. The EMO is just a few minutes away from the Dartmouth General Hospital.

The communications room contains five cubicles, each equipped with a police scanner and an amateur radio. "I have a pool of about 60 people I can call in," says Galloway. "But, there is one person who always calls me first to see if there is anything he can do - VE1WPH - Wayne." Hams often refer to each other by their call signs rather than their names, a sign of respect for the person's license to operate. Wayne Harasmovitch says, for him, "it's just a sense of doing the right thing."

Barry Manuel is the EMO Coordinator for the Halifax Regional

Municipality. A former City of Dartmouth police officer, he has been involved with Emergency Operations since 1988. "I started meeting with the radio amateurs on a monthly basis in 1996," he says. "They are a versatile group. They have the ability, through their hobby, to make communication devices work. They can set up communications where I need it."

Amateur radios are not dependent on commercial systems. They can be used with 12-volt car batteries and mobile antennas. "Give us a roll of duct tape and a coat hanger and we can make an antenna and begin transmitting," David George says. "We are a resourceful group."

Members of the EMO Amateur Radio Group were called in after the crash of SwissAir Flight 111 in September 1998. Cell phones had quickly become useless as the volume of calls saturated the single cell tower in the area. Dispatched to the Command Post at Peggy's Cove, hams established communication links between the site and control stations in Halifax.

Amateurs were able to quickly set up a command centre during the evacuation of almost 800 Hammonds Plains' residents from the Kingswood Subdivision during the forest fire in June 2000. Cell phone batteries had drained, but the amateurs were able to establish and maintain communication.

"When 8000 people came to supper," as Manuel refers to September 11, 2001, emergency shelters were established at 18 locations throughout metro to accommodate the stranded passengers. Radio amateurs set up communication links between the facilities, EMO and the Red Cross, who maintain an amateur radio set at their headquarters. One or two people stayed at each site until additional telephone lines could be established.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

10:00 p.m. — Sherry feels fine. Yielding to their sense of adventure, she and David decide to head out into the storm. "This is what we do for fun," laughs Sherry. Amateur radio roammers ride the city streets looking for problem areas and reporting back to the EMO via their mobile radios.



Heading east to Cow Bay, they discover trees and power poles blocking roads in some places — vital information for the dispatch of emergency vehicles.

In Eastern Passage, the ocean has come up to meet the highway. Sitting right next to them on the road is a large fishing boat.

They decide to head back to the city. Slowly they make their way to the north end of Dartmouth. Things are getting much worse. David has trouble controlling the car. The wind rocks it back and forth; they can hardly see the street in front of them. Sherry starts to feel pangs — not of labour, but of fear.

On his next transmission, David tells Bill they are going to go home to check on their apartment before returning to the EMO.

Amateur radio becomes the first line of communication only if the infrastructure fails. With new systems being developed, this rarely happens.

The Trunked Mobile Radio (TMR) Service allows fire, police and ambulance to share their designated channels. When users key hand-held radios, the trunking equipment allocates an available channel if their normal frequency is in use.

Cell phone coverage is expanding. Mobile cell towers can be set up if existing towers are knocked out or jammed.

Does this mean the role of radio amateurs is becoming obsolete? "Absolutely not," says Barry Manuel. The hobby draws people from many

walks of life with a wide skill set — engineers, teachers, electricians, technicians, lawyers, students and people from the military. They work side by side with the paid professionals. Manuel says, "I like to blur the line between volunteer and career."

Radio amateurs pitch in wherever they are needed during emergencies, often acting as administration assistants to help with the flow of paper. It was the amateurs who erected the EMO antennas on top of the building back in 2001. Amateur, Dave Nimmo, programmed the RCMP radio to pick up BBC, Radio Australia and Radio Netherlands for Y2K monitoring. "When I call on the amateurs, I'm not getting a radio; I'm getting a resource," says Manual.

2:30 a.m. — an eerie silence and almost total darkness. Juan has departed. Impassable roads had prevented Sherry and David from returning to the EMO. With their hand-held radio and flashlight, they set out on foot from their Lakefront Road apartment. Trees and poles criss-cross the road. Wires dangle precariously.

"VE1HRD, this is VE1AJP," says David into his radio. Bill Galloway is still at the EMO to receive the call.

There are over 600 hams in the Halifax Regional Municipality. Galloway doesn't worry about the few critics who feel their members are providing free labour for HRM. Amateurs maintain a good rapport with the EMO. The Dartmouth Amateur Radio club is located in the EMO building; their antennas are allotted room on EMO towers; and liability insurance is provided to amateur volunteers.

Monday morning, September 29, 2003. Bill Galloway leaves the Emergency Measures office. He has been on duty for over 20 hours.

His relief had been unable to make it in to replace him.

He stops at the Centre's Wall of Honour. One of the first two plaques on the wall belongs to Nova Scotia's Amateur Radio Association. At the unveiling in September 2001, then Minister responsible for Emergency Measures, Jamie Muir, said, "Volunteers are the lifeblood of any emergency situation."

Fortunately, the infrastructure did hold during Hurricane Juan. But, it was close. Back-up batteries for some communications systems were within two hours of failing; generators were scarce. Had the system not held, Bill Galloway and his team of volunteers were there — they were ready.

"I do it because it's a service to my community; I do it because I am able to," says Galloway.

On October 30, 2003, Sherry George gave birth to a healthy baby boy — Ian George, weighing in at 7 pounds, 10 ounces.

The HRM EMO/ham Advisory Committee Web page is at
www.ve1hre.ca

A good friend will come and bail you out of jail...BUT, a true friend will be sitting next to you saying "Dam ... that was fun"!

HARC Tube Bank Anyone looking for a particular tube or tubes should contact the Tube Bank Managers Amy Cohoon, Ashley Cohoon or Kim Carter by e-mail at

tubes@37.com

or snail mail:

99 Hyson Point Rd.
 Mahone Bay, N.S. B0J 2E0

There is a nominal charge if we can supply the tube wanted.

Shipping mailing is extra.



VA3Canadian Guide Dogs
www.magma.ca/~ve3gpr/va3cgd

This year 2004 is the 10th anniversary of CGD Amateur Radio Association and the 20th anniversary of The Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind.

An **award** is offered to all Amateur Radio Operators who take part in the award 2004, starting 2004 April 01, ending 2005 March 31. The rules are very simple and most Amateurs should complete it a very short time.

This award is open to all Amateur Radio Operators worldwide and its aim is to work Visually Impaired Amateur Radio Operators for points, using any band or mode.

Point system

(A) Contact with a Canadian Visually Impaired Amateur Radio Operator is worth 3 points each.

(B) Contact with a Canadian Visually Impaired Amateur Radio Operator with a Guide Dog is worth 6 points.

(C) Contact with VA3CGD is worth 8 points.

30 point is all that is required, adding the total years of CGDARA & CGDB in operation.

You could end up with more than 30 points, but that is no problem as long as you have at least 30 points.

Keep all QSO's using a standard log sheet hand written or computer generated.

When the log is completed send it to the address below along with \$5.00 for the Certificate.

CGD Amateur Radio Association
C/o Bill Cousins VE3GPR
RR # 1 Kemptville, Ontario.
K0G 1J0

**Answer to puzzler on page 3**

What other Canadian location was used for early trans-Atlantic radio experiments?

Answer: Marconi also set up a radio site at Glace Bay Nova Scotia. The only things still remaining there are the cement tower bases. It is now the site of the Marconi Museum which has artefacts such as spark gap transmitters on display. There is also a ham station located in the museum.

2004 IARU HF World Championship Contest 14 is organized by the ARRL on behalf of the IARU

When: The second full weekend of July, beginning 1200 UTC Saturday and ending 1200 UTC Sunday (July 10-11, 2004). Both Single and Multi op. stations may operate the entire 24-hour period.

For contest information, contact n1nd@iaru.org or IARU HF Contest Information, PO Box 310905, Newington, CT 06111-0905 USA.

Contest forms may be downloaded at: <http://www.iaru.org/contest.html>

1. Eligibility: All licensed amateurs worldwide.

2. Object: To contact as many other amateurs, especially IARU member society HQ stations, around the world as possible using the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands.

A complete exchange must be logged for each valid QSO.

Entries must be postmarked or emailed no later than 30 days after the end of the contest (August 10, 2004). No late entries can be accepted. Entries that are received after mid-October, 2004, even if mailed in time, may not be received in time to be included in the official results.

Electronic entries must conform to the Cabrillo file format which may be found at

<http://www.kkn.net/~trey/cabrillo/> or in the November 1999 issue of QST magazine.

From: Canadian_Amateur_Radio_Group@yahoogroups.com

Thanks to Chris, VA1CDB for passing this along - ed.

DX News

Carlos, EA1CRK (<http://www.qsl.net/ea1crk/escocia/trip.htm>) will operate (on 20 and 40 metres "holiday style") as MM/EA1CRK from the islands of Skye (EU-008), Orkney (EU-009) and Shetland (EU-012) on 10-20 July. QSL via home call, bureau or direct. [TNX EA1CRK]

QUEBEC QSO PARTY Radio Amateurs du Quebec Inc., has announced the creation of the Quebec QSO Party, to be held every summer on the Saturday immediately preceding 24 June. This year's event will take place from 17 UTC June 19 to 3 UTC on the 20th. Rules and other related information can be found at <http://www.raqi.ca/qqp>, or from Guy Lamoureux, VE2LGL (directeur.general@raqi.ca) and Luc Dore, VA2KSH, (va2ksh@raqi.ca).

19/06/2004: Mauro, IW1RHG, reports that he will be QRV June 19th and 20th from inside the Portofino lighthouse (WAIL reference LI-008, ARLHS reference ITA-131, WW Loc. JN44OG) using the special call IR1PL. QSL via IW1RHG, direct or bureau.

73 and Good Hunting!
Dave Raycroft - VA3RJ

Note: A complete list of Prefixes assigned by International Telecommunications Union can be found on the Trans Provincial Website:

www.tpn7055.ca/callsign.html

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 08

Proposed Addition of the @ symbol to the official international Morse code lexicon (assuming approval by International Telecommunication Union

<http://www.itu.int/home/index.html>
member-states)

The new character (necessary for transmitting e-mail addresses in CW, etc.) to be "AC" run together

•---••

The 2003 MS Bike Tour raised
\$340,000